



August 2011

Report of Sudbury Town Pastors for their first two years on the streets:

This report comes almost 2 years to the day that Town Pastors first went out onto the streets of Sudbury.

We firmly believe that God has been in the ministry of the Town Pastors, and have seen many answers to prayer, whilst the Town Pastors have been on the streets.

For all those involved with Town Pastors, we consider it a real work amongst the people on the streets of Sudbury, during what is termed the night time economy.

A typical night starts when the Town Pastors and prayer team arrive at the town centre headquarters before 10pm. The HQ is manned by the prayer team backed by home – prayers who call in regularly to get updates.

Every night is different, and each Saturday or sometimes Friday night, the team of two pastors, who work as a pair, and wearing bright yellow high-visibility jackets, go out for the first shift. Carrying water, chocolate, blankets and other supplies, they head into the streets in the town centre, that contain the pubs, bars and two clubs.

Town Pastors are all Christians which means they show non-judgemental concern, and assisting people where ever appropriate.

One such person wrote:

Hi there,

I am sending this e-Mail to both Peter and Frank so hopefully one of you will read it!

I was out in Sudbury town centre on Saturday 7th August, and I was unfortunate enough to have my drink spiked in Eastern Station Lounge at about 2am. It affected me so much that I almost passed out after just a few minutes, and I was on my own at the time. I somehow managed to get out of the club and lean against a wall outside for support. My friends were nowhere to be seen and I couldn't even get my phone out to contact them. I was violently hallucinating and nearly fell unconscious.

Fortunately, two of your team were standing nearby and they saw that something was clearly wrong. They approached me and offered their help, for which I was **extremely** grateful. I could barely think straight, and if it wasn't for the genuine care of the two pastors, my situation could have been a lot, lot worse. They both helped me out of the area and it was at that time I could feel my phone vibrating in my pocket - it was one of my friends. I asked a pastor to answer it for me, and they helped my friend come and find me to take me back home. I was given a bottle of water as well, which helped a lot.

Due to the spiking of my drink, I honestly can't remember what the two pastors who helped me looked

like - all I remember was that I think it was a man and a lady, the man was taller than the lady, and perhaps slightly elderly and/or having grey hair. I would very much appreciate it if you could try and figure out who the two pastors were and pass on a heartfelt thanks from me - without their caring nature and patience, my night could have very easily taken a second turn for the worse. The same message goes out to all of the team - you all do a fantastic job and you really are unsung heroes. I never thought I would need one of you to help me as I am not a heavy drinker by a long shot. I obviously didn't count on my drink being spiked!

Once again, thank you very much for providing such a brilliant and essential service. You all deserve a medal and I'm sure everybody out in Sudbury at the weekends depends on you far more than you realise.

Best regards,

(Young man, name withheld)

Every month, the 14 volunteers offer support to vulnerable people, help to defuse potentially difficult situations, and work with the police and CCTV via the radios they carry to promote safety.

Every night begins and ends with prayer.

The number of Town Pastors and volunteers for Prayer Base and Home Pray-ers has remained virtually static, with new trainees replacing those who have been unable to continue.

We currently need more volunteers for the roles of Town Pastor, Prayer Base, and Home pray-ers, and if you have a desire to make Jesus' love known on the streets of Sudbury, as a first step, please phone Pastor Peter Avery, on Sudbury 464740.